13 September 2006
English
Original: Spanish

Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 2006

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Diego **Simancas** (Mexico)

II. Calendar of conferences and meetings

Impact on meetings held at Headquarters during the implementation of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach)

Introduction and overview

1. At its 477th meeting, on 12 September, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of the capital master plan on meetings to be held at Headquarters during its implementation (A/61/300).

Discussion

2. Satisfaction was expressed that the implementation of the capital master plan would not cause any interruption in meetings planned for Headquarters, and that careful planning would ensure that the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management could maintain the quality of conference services provided without adversely affecting the working conditions of language staff. Although some delegations expressed regret at the loss of exhibition space during construction, a representative of the Secretariat said that the temporary facility was intended to be a basic functional space that would replace core facilities, and that replacing exhibit space in a temporary facility would not be cost-effective. It was noted that, while all meetings on the calendar could be accommodated, there would be less flexibility during construction for the many side events that often accompanied sessions of certain bodies. Greater flexibility would necessarily be shown for meetings of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, but in general meetings should be as predictable as possible in order to avoid additional costs that would be

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incurred from construction delays caused by meetings held outside normal working hours.

3 The Committee expressed appreciation for the continuous interaction between the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the capital master plan project. It intended to keep the matter under constant review and to request the Secretary-General to report periodically thereon to the General Assembly through the Committee.